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DRAFTED BY: AF/P:MBSWANN
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ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS DATE/CASE ID: 09 JAN 2008 200703927

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AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY - MAY 10-11,

1994

1. BELOW IS GUIDANCE ON RWANDA AND SOUTH AFRICA.
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TUESDAY, MAY 10

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2. RWANDA: IO - CURRENT SITUATION

- . PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON FIGHTING AND UN PEACEMAKING EFFORTS IN RWANDA.
- A. UN SOURCES REPORT THAT FIGHTING HAS INTENSIFIED IN AND AROUND KIGALI AS THE RPF MAINTAINS ITS OFFENSIVE MOVEMENTS. HEAVY FIGHTING IS ALSO REFORTED NEAR RUHENGER1 AND ALONG THE TANZANIAN BORDER. SHELLING NEAR THE A RPORT HAS FORCED THE STOPPING OF ALL BUT A FEW UN FLIGHTS INTO KIGALI. A UNAMIR SOLDIER FROM GHANA WAS KILLED YESTERDAY BY MORTAR FIRE.

THE UNAMIR FORCE COMMANDER CONTINUES TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF THE MILITARY AND THE RPF IN AN ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A CEASEFIRE AND RENEW POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.

- 3. RWANDA: RP -
- Q. WOULD YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE RWANDAN REFUGEE CRISIS?

A. THE RELIEF EFFORT TO TAKE CARE OF MORE THAN 300,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES UNCLASSIFIED

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250,000 ARE IN TANZANIA, WHILE 60,000 OTHERS HAVE FLED TO URUNDI, UGANDA AND ZAIRE.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) IS COORDINATING A MASSIVE RELIEF EFFORT IN NGARA IN TANZANIA WHERE THE LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP IN THE WORLD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

- O. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP?
- A. YESTERDAY, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED IT WILL EGIN AIRLIFTING APPROXIMATELY 478,000 POUNDS OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES USING AIR FORCE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT ON MAY 11.

THE RELIEF ITEMS -- 100,000 BLANKETS AND 10,000 ROLLS OF PLASTIC SHEETING -- WILL BE FLOWN FROM TURKEY TO MWANZA IN TANZANIA. UNHOR WILL DISTRIBUTE THE SUPPLIES TO THE REFUGEES.

LAST WEEK, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED 15 MILLION TO UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS TO SUPPORT THEIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE REFUGEES.

IN MARCH THE USG CONTRIBUTED 35 MILLION IN MARCH TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS FOR ITS EMERGENCY PROGRAMS IN AFRICA, MUCH OF WHICH WILL BE USED TO HELP RWANDANS.

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OTHER US ASSISTANCE IS BEING PROVIDED BY USAID'S OFFICE OF

S FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, FOOD FOR PEACE' AND BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

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- 4. SOUTH AFRICA: VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH MANDELA
- Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MANDELA?
- A: THE VICE PRESIDENT SPOKE TO THE PRESS AFTER YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MANDELA.

THE VICE PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT MANDELA ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE NEW SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, ILLITERACY, AND HOUSING. THE VICE PRESIDENT REASSURED PRESIDENT MANDELA THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO BE A GOOD PARTNER IN HELPING SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESS SUCH PROBLEMS.

(IF ASKED): THE TWO LEADERS ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN RWANDA.

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- 5. RWANDA: AF GORE MEETING ON RWANDA
- Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S MEETING YESTERDAY IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH AFRICAN LEADERS REGARDING RWANDA?
- A: VICE PRESIDENT GORE MET WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS GHALI, OAU SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM SALIM, AND TANZANIAN PRESIDENT MWINYI ON MAY 10 IN PRETORIA TO DISCUSS THE TRAGIC SITUATION IN RWANDA.

THE US OBJECTIVES IN RWANDA CONTINUE TO BE:

TO STOP THE KILLING,

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- TO ACHIEVE A CEASE-FIRE,
- TO URGE A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND
- TO PERMIT THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

A NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR HELPING THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING. ALL THE OPTIONS INCLUDE THE RECOGNITION THAT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE MUST GET TO ALL RWANDANS IN NEED.

AFTER THE MEETING, THE VICE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT HE

DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS OPTIONS UNTIL CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMPLETED.

6. RWANDA: IO - CURRENT SITUATION

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Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON FIGHTING IN RWANDA AND ON
UN SECURITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, INCLUDING DETAILS OF REPORTED
UN STAFF STUDY RECOMMENDING A 5,500 MAN INTERVENTION FORCE
(MENTIONED IN THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON POST STORY).

A. UN SOURCES REPORT THAT INTENSE FIGHTING CONTINUES IN AND AROUND KIGALI AS THE RPF CONTINUES ITS ADVANCE IN THE CITY. SUFFICIENT LULLS IN THE FIGHTING HAVE OCCURRED, HOWEVER, TO ALLOW SOME UN RELIEF FLIGHTS YESTERDAY AND TODAY. THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MR. AYALA LASSO, ALSO MANAGED TO ARRIVE IN KIGALI TODAY AND HAS BEGUN MEETINGS WITH LEADERS OFOTH THE WARRING PARTIES.

THE UN HAS PRESENTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL A NONPAPER HICH DISCUSSES THE USE OF ADDITIONAL UNAMIR TROOPS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA. THIS IS ONE OF THE OPTIONS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN IT MEETS AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON.

- 7. RWANDA: RP REFUGEE UPDATE
- Q. WOULD YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE RWANDAN REFUGEE CRISIS?
- A. THE RELIEF EFFORT TO TAKE CARE OF MORE THAN 300,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES CONTINUES.

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250,000 HAVE CROSSED INTO TANZANIA, WHILE 65,000 OTHERS

HAVE FLED TO BURUNDI, UGANDA AND ZAIRE.

BETWEEN 400 AND 1,500 REFUGEES, MOST TRAVELLING IN SMALL GROUPS, CONTINUE TO ARRIVE DAILY IN TANZANIA.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) IS COORDINATING A MASSIVE RELIEF EFFORT IN NGARA IN TANZANIA WHERE THE LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP IN THE WORLD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS BRUNSON MCKINLEY VISITED THE CAMP OVER THE WEEKEND.

HE REPORTS THAT, WHILE PROBLEMS ARE MANY AND SEVERE, THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HAS BEEN RAPID AND EFFECTIVE.

IF THERE ARE NEW REFUGEE OUTFLOWS, THE RESPONSE CAPACITY WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT.

- Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP
- A. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS BEGUN AIRLIFTING APPROXIMATELY 478,000 POUNDS OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES USING AIR FORCE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

THE RELIEF ITEMS -- 100,000 BLANKETS AND 10,000 ROLLS OF PLASTIC SHEETING -- WILL BE FLOWN FROM TURKEY TO MWANZA IN UNCLASSIFIED

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TANZANIA. UNHCR WILL DISTRIBUTE THE SUPPLIES TO THE REFUGEES.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO AIRLIFT TRUCKS FROM DUBAI TO MWANZA. THESE WILL BE USED BY UNHER TO TRANSPORT SUPPLIES TO THE CAMP IN NGARA.

LAST WEEK, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED 15 MILLION TO UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS TO SUPPORT THEIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE REFUGEES.

IN MARCH THE USG CONTRIBUTED 35 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS FOR ITS EMERGENCY PROGRAMS IN AFRICA, MUCH OF WHICH WILL BE USED TO HELP RWANDANS.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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